

America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers Consortium

An Agreement among Tennessee Valley Corridor, Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Y-12, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Roane State Community College, Pellissippi State Technical Community College, Tennessee Technological University, and the University of Tennessee.

Article 1 – Name of the Organization

The name of the organization shall be the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers Consortium.

Article II – Statement of Purpose

The Consortium's purpose is to contribute toward Tennessee's need for Scientific, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills through facilitating access to higher education by enabling military members who are completing their service to relocate to Tennessee for education and employment in STEM career fields.

Article III - Establishing the Consortium

Each Consortium Member agrees that:

- The rights, duties, obligations and liabilities of the Consortium Members are separate and not joint;
- The relationship among the Consortium Members is one of joint ventures and is limited to carrying out the activities so that nothing in this Agreement makes any of them an agent, partner or trustee of any other of them.

Objective of the Consortium:

The Consortium has been formed to advance the goal of, provide support for, participate in and encourage expanded support for and participation in the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program initiative is to enable military members who are completing their service to relocate to Tennessee for education and employment in STEM career fields. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program further seeks to match Non-Commissioned Officers' (NCOs) service to country, discipline, and skills to the Tennessee Valley Corridor's technical growth and potential nuclear industry resurgence. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program will contribute toward meeting Tennessee's need for STEM skills, match STEM opportunities to military NCOs and potentially Commissioned Officers completing their service, and provide Tennessee direct opportunities to employ America's veterans.

Article III – Membership and Organizational Structure

The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program will be operated as a Consortium whose membership consists of the participating institutions of higher education and business. Charter members of the Consortium include Tennessee Valley Corridor (TVC), Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Y-12, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Roane State Community College (RSCC), Mississippi State Technical Community College (PSTCC), Tennessee Technological University (TTU) and the University of Tennessee (UT). The institutions represent a partnership of competing, collaborating, and independent enterprises loosely connected by the common goal of increasing education and employment in STEM fields for Tennessee. The Consortium, although informally networked, should pursue joint solutions to common problems and seek opportunities for mutual collaboration beneficial to all Consortium members.

An America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program Steering Committee will be established to review and select participants for the program from the applicants. The Steering Committee will be comprised of five community/academic leaders. Kevin Smith, Deputy Manager of the NNSA's Y-12 Site Office, will serve as the initial America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program STEM Coordinator.

While serving as a member of the Consortium, each participating institution is expected to maintain its own identity and:

- Operate within its own governance and administrative framework,
- Serve as its own fiscal agent,
- Provide voluntary academic mentors for America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program students;
- Provide America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program students with resources available to all college/university students

Membership in the Consortium is open to any Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accredited community college or four-year college or university committed to offer degree program(s) in the STEM subject areas. Additionally, any business or community agency that will provide part-time work in the STEM fields for America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program participants shall be eligible for membership.

Article IV – The Engineering Consortium Steering Committee – Composition, Appointment, and Responsibilities

An America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program steering committee, comprised of five members, will be appointed to serve in an advisory capacity to the Consortium. The Consortium steering committee is the only entity authorized to admit new members. An institution seeking to become a member of the Consortium must apply in writing to the chair of the steering committee who will present the request for consideration to the steering committee. The request must be approved by a majority of the committee members prior to the institution being admitted as a Consortium member. Kevin Smith

will serve as the interim Chair of the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program Steering Committee until one is appointed.

The steering committee will serve in the following capacities:

- Develop and annually update the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program selection criteria based on the need of hiring organizations,
- Review applicants and select participants and alternates for the program,
- Plan and assess activities relating to programs and services provided by the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program,
- Marketing the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program and the program to encourage student enrollment and community participation,
- Fostering community support for the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program, and
- Review and approve new Consortium members.

Article V – Eligibility and Participation

The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program is for military members completing their service but still on active duty. Applicants must:

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have a minimum of a current "Secret" clearance and able to transfer it to the employing agency "in status"
- Be departing the service with a "Good Conduct" discharge
- Have a solid academic background and demonstrated strength in math and science

Purple Heart and other significant military award recipients will be given additional selection weighting. Selected military members will use their transition Permanent Change of Station (PCS) benefits to relocate to the Oak Ridge/Knoxville area. Graduates of University of Tennessee and Tennessee Technological University Engineering programs will be guaranteed appropriate positions with a participating organization.

Participation in the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program is completely voluntary. Individuals can terminate participation in the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program at anytime. America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program participants who elect to leave the program short of a four-year degree will be given due consideration by participating organizations for employment.

Article VI – Programs Provided by Consortium Members

Review of and selection of an initial five participants will begin in Fall 2008 with enrollment in the program to begin in January 2009. Initial participants will mostly be chosen from Wounded Veteran and Purple Heart recipients. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program will coordinate with Walter Reed Army Hospital and other supporting organizations in recruiting and selecting the participants. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program will incrementally grow the program to 30

participants per year. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program Coordinator will follow student progress through the program and provide needed assistance whenever possible. America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program participants will complete Engineering prerequisites and will attend a two-year institution for a minimum of one term to verify or establish technical foundation. Some Tennessee Technological University or University of Tennessee participants may directly enter a four-year program depending on their academic qualifications.

Article VII – Finances

Selected military members will be responsible for their own academic and living expenses. Part-time employment will be available to America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program students while they are enrolled in good academic standing at a participating institution. The America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program will endeavor to provide a mechanism for medical coverage as needed for some participants.

Community organizations and businesses will offer part-time work to participants. Employment will normally be offered at 10-20 hours a week per person, if desired and available at their location. Additional hours should be able to be arranged through the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program Coordinator, depending upon the student maintaining good academic standing.

Community colleges and four-year institutions should incur no additional cost for participation in the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers Program. Participation in the America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program does not preclude STEM students from seeking financial scholarships or support.

Charter members of the Consortium have made a three-year commitment to participate in the Consortium and to provide academic degree programming for Consortium participants. Each Consortium member will be responsible for its level of spending in support of the services offered to America's Veterans to Tennessee Engineers program students. Each Consortium member will be solely responsible for collecting fees and tuition from students enrolled in its institution through its normal established processes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the charter members of the Engineering Consortium have caused to be subscribed and affixed their names to this Agreement.

Mr. Tom Rogers
Tennessee Valley Corridor

(date)

Mr. Darrel Kohlhorst (date)
President and General Manager B&W Y-12

Dr. Gary Goff (date)
President, Roane State Community College

Dr. Allen Edwards (date)
President, Pellissippi State Technical Community College

Dr. Robert Bell (date)
President, Tennessee Technological University

Dr. John D. Petersen (date)
President, University of Tennessee System

Dr. Tom Mason (date)
President and General Manager Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Mr. Tom Kilgore (date)
President and CEO, Tennessee Valley Authority

Mr. Ted Sherry (date)
Manager, Y-12 Site Office, NNSA

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the additional members of the Engineering Consortium have caused to be subscribed and affixed their names to this Agreement.

Dr. Barry Goss (date)
President, Pro2Serve